



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Smith** Chief Deputy

Law of the Month

April, 2016

One of the easiest ways to make driving safer is by wearing your seatbelt. Wisconsin enacted mandatory usage of seat belts in 1987. Since that law was enacted, there has been an increase in usage but it still falls short of 100%. During the most recent surveys the usage is approximately 83%. Law enforcement's goal is to have 100% compliance which could save countless lives.

Effective June 30, 2009, Wisconsin has what is known as a primary enforcement seatbelt law. A primary enforcement seatbelt law allows law enforcement to stop and ticket a driver for not wearing a seatbelt, just like any other routine traffic violation. Prior to this update, officers were required to have another reason to stop a motorist to be able to enforce the seatbelt law.

Violation of the Wisconsin seatbelt law carries a fine of \$10 and 0 points.

347.48 (2m) Wisconsin State Statute States: (a) In this subsection, "properly restrained" means wearing a safety belt approved by the department under sub. (2) and fastened in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the safety belt which permits the safety belt to act as a body restraint. (b) If a motor vehicle is required to be equipped with safety belts in this state, no person may operate that motor vehicle unless the person is properly restrained in a safety belt.

Captain Trace Frost of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office asks all motorists to wear their seatbelts. Frost added "Over the years I have seen people seriously injured or killed in crashes where if they had been wearing their seatbelt, the injuries and deaths could have been avoided".